



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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FRESNO MAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned an indictment today against MANUEL GONZALEZ AGUILAR, 21, of Fresno, Calif., for possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it and for being a drug user in possession of firearms.

This case is the result of a joint investigation by Fresno Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The joint effort is part of the Project SAFE Neighborhoods initiative, a joint effort between federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities to reduce firearms and violent crimes.

According to United States Attorney Kimberly A. Sanchez, who prosecuted the case, GONZALEZ was arrested on September 10, 2008 after a traffic stop in which officers recovered more than 50 grams of methamphetamine and three firearms.

“Armed drug dealers are not welcome in our communities. ATF will continue working with our law enforcement partners to rid our communities of these violators,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen.

If convicted, GONZALEZ faces a maximum sentence of 50 years in prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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